

March 21, 2017

Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: *Comment on Request for Reconsideration Concerning Lifeline Broadband Providers*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42

Dear Chairman Pai:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments in response to the *Request for Reconsideration Concerning Lifeline Broadband Providers*.

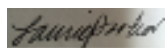
The civil rights and public interest communities are committed to ensuring that all members of society are connected to modern, advanced communications networks and services, and believe the Lifeline program fills an important role in a comprehensive strategy for bridging the digital divide as it lowers a major barrier to access due to cost.

The Wireline Competition Bureau Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) revocation order delays an array of innovative and high quality Lifeline broadband offerings and has a chilling effect on other potential Lifeline broadband entrants. The new LBP designation process is critical for increasing competition and facilitating competition and innovation in the Lifeline broadband program, and we urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to resume the designation process immediately.

We support widespread commercial participation to create a highly competitive Lifeline broadband marketplace. The LBP designation process is thoughtful, balanced, and limited, and the current state-by-state process is still operational for companies that offer voice and broadband products.

We urge the Commission to act quickly on this matter as uncertainty regarding the process for broadband providers to participate in the Lifeline program delays access to affordable broadband to low-income households.

Sincerely,



Laurie Parker

